IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly replace the claims of record with the following full set of claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method, operable in a **speech processing** ~~computer~~ system, for analyzing of speech, the method causing the **speech processing** ~~computer~~ system to execute the steps of:

 in the speech processing system

– inputting a speech signal,

– obtaining a first harmonic of the speech signal,

– determining a phase-difference ($\Delta\varphi$) between the speech signal and the first harmonic for centering a windowing function, wherein said phase difference is determined between a maximum of said speech signal and a phase zero of the first harmonic of the speech signal.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, the determination of the phase difference comprising the steps of:

– determining a location of said maximum of the speech signal.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, whereby the speech signal is a diphone signal.

4. (Currently amended) A method for synthesizing speech, the method, operable in a **speech processing** ~~computer~~ system, comprising the steps of:

in the speech processing system,

– selecting of windowed diphone samples, the diphone samples being windowed by a

window function being centered with respect to a phase angle which is determined as

a phase difference between a maximum of said speech signal and a zero crossing of a

first harmonic of the speech signal, and

– concatenating the selected windowed diphone samples.

5. (original) The method of claim 4, the speech signal being a diphone signal.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4, the window function being a raised

cosine or a triangular window.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4 further comprising inputting of

information being indicative of diphones and a pitch contour, the information forming the

basis for selecting of the windowed diphone samples.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4, whereby the information is provided

from a language processing module of a text-to-speech system.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4 further comprising:

– inputting of speech,

– windowing the speech by means of the window function to obtain the windowed

diphone samples.

10. Cancelled.

11. (Previously presented) A speech analysis device comprising:

–   means for inputting of a speech signal,

–   means for obtaining a first harmonic of the speech signal,

–   means for determining a phase difference ($\Delta\varphi$) between the speech signal and the first

    harmonic for centering a window function, wherein said phase difference is

    determined between a maximum of said speech signal and a phase zero (φ_0) of the

    speech signal.

12. (Previously presented) The speech analysis device of claim 11, the means for

determining the phase difference being adapted to determine:

    the maximum of the speech signal.

13. (Previously presented) The speech analysis device of claim 11, wherein the speech

signal is a diphone signal.

14. (Previously presented) A speech synthesis device comprising:

–   means for selecting of windowed diphone samples, the diphone samples being

    windowed by a window function being centered with respect to a phase angle which

    is determined as a phase difference between a speech signal and a first harmonic of

the speech signal, wherein said phase difference is determined between a maximum

of said speech signal and a phase zero of the first harmonic of the speech signal

– means for concatenating the selected windowed diphone signals.

15. (original) The speech synthesis device of claim 14, wherein the speech signal is a

diphone signal.

16. (Previously presented) The speech synthesis device of claim 14 the window function

being a raised cosine or a triangular window.

17. (Previously presented) The speech synthesis device of claim 14 further comprising

means for inputting of information being indicative of diphones and a pitch contour, the

means for selecting the windowed diphones being adapted to perform the selection based

on the information.

18. (Previously presented) A text-to-speech system comprising:

– language processing means for providing of information being indicative of diphones

and a pitch contour,

– speech synthesis means comprising means for:

– selecting of windowed diphone samples based on the

information, the diphone samples being windowed by a window function being

centered with respect to a phase angle which is determined as a phase difference

between a maximum of said speech signal and a first harmonic of the speech signal; and

– means for concatenating the selected windowed diphone samples.

19. (original) The text-to-speech system of claim 18, whereby the window function is a raised cosine or a triangular window.

20. (Previously presented) A speech processing system comprising:

– means for inputting of a signal comprising natural speech signal,

– means for windowing the natural speech signal by means of a window function being centered with respect to a phase angle determined as a phase difference between a maximum of said speech signal and a first harmonic of the speech signal to provide windowed diphone samples,

– means for processing of the windowed diphone samples, and

means for concatenating the selected windowed diphone samples.